

Finally, the fact that the birds failed to find the source of the stench, and "gave up the search" after staying about "for an hour or two," is totally irreconcilable with the possession of such powers of scent as would enable them to detect the same odor at a distance of more than two miles.

If the space can be spared. I should be glad, in a future number of 'The Auk,' to discuss this subject further, and to give a brief *résumé* of the evidence on both sides of the question.

Respectfully,

Washington, D. C., March 4, 1887.

WALTER B. BARROWS.

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JOHN M. WHEATON, one of the original members of the A. O. U. and well known as an ornithologist, died at his residence in Columbus, Ohio, January 28, after protracted illness from consumption, at the age of forty-six. Dr. Wheaton has for many years been an occasional contributor to current ornithological literature; his principal work, however, was a report on the Birds of Ohio, published in 1882, in the fourth volume of the Geological Report of the State of Ohio.* His unrivalled collection of the birds of Ohio is now at the State University. Dr. Wheaton was born at Columbus, and was educated at Davison University; he afterward studied medicine, graduating from the Starling Medical College in 1884, and immediately after entered the army as an assistant surgeon. In 1867 he was made Professor of Anatomy in the Starling Medical College, which position he held till his death. He was also a trustee of the college, and secretary of the board. He was a successful physician, a teacher of recognized ability, and held in high esteem by all who knew him. He leaves a wife and a son nine years of age. Dr. Wheaton's death is the first that has occurred among the Active Members of the A. O. U.

CONGRESS has appropriated \$12,000 for carrying on the work of the Department of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy for the year ending June 30, 1888. Now that the adjournment of Congress has brought some relief to the Government Printing Office, it is hoped that some of the long-expected special reports of the Department will soon be put in type.

scent in Vultures, as published in Volume IV of that work. The criticism, which was by Mr. Sayles, embodied all the facts since published by him in 'The Auk,' and much additional matter on various subjects. In connection with the particular instance cited above, it was there distinctly stated that a flock of Buzzards was no unusual sight on the plantation, and that nothing was thought of it in this case until they were seen wheeling about the *open wood-shed* (the italics are mine) where, during the night, the pot of offal had been upset by the dogs.

* For a review of this work see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, p. 110.

THE bill authorizing an appropriation of \$400,000 by the City of New York for the construction of an addition to the American Museum of Natural History building has passed both branches of the New York State legislature almost unanimously and has become a law. The addition will be at the 77th Street end of the present structure, and will be of about the same size as the portion already constructed. It is expected that work on the proposed addition will be begun at an early day.

Two numbers of a new monthly journal, called 'The Audubon Magazine,' have appeared. It is "published in the interest of the Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds," by the 'Forest and Stream' Publishing Company of New York. Besides being a medium of communication between the friends of Bird Protection, it is intended to interest the young in the general subject of natural history, giving, however, special prominence to ornithology. Its purposes are excellent, and, under the editorial supervision of Dr. George Bird Grinnell, it promises to become a very acceptable and useful popular journal, covering essentially a new field, where much good may be accomplished.

ANOTHER very promising addition to periodical literature devoted to popularizing natural history is 'The Swiss Cross,' the new official organ of the Agassiz Association. It is a monthly, edited by Harlan H. Ballard, President of the Agassiz Association, and published by N. D. C. Hodges (the editor of 'Science'), at 47 Lafayette Place, New York. It is "devoted to spreading among the people an accurate knowledge of nature." Three numbers have already appeared.

THAT the interest in the subject of Bird Protection is earnest and widespread is evinced by the number of journals which are springing up devoted more or less exclusively to the support of the movement. Besides 'The Audubon Magazine,' noticed above, we have received three numbers (Jan.-March, 1887) of a monthly journal entitled 'The Bird Call,' published by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, Miss A. C. Knight, President, No. 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. This Society was organized in April, 1886, and duly incorporated the following August. 'The Bird Call' is issued in aid of the humane work of the Society—"to plead for mercy to God's messengers of beauty, use, and song," and to aid in "the campaign against the mandates of a cruel and senseless fashion." We wish 'The Bird Call' every success in its good work.

MR. C. J. MAYNARD has issued a prospectus of 'Illustrations and Description of the Birds of the Bahamas.' The work is to be large folio in size, and published in from fifteen to twenty parts, monographic in character. Each part is intended to be "an exhaustive treatise of the species under consideration, complete in itself," and will contain a colored plate and an uncolored one, the latter devoted to the osteological and other anatomical details described in the accompanying text, which will include biographical as well as technical matter. The first part, announced as

now ready "contains a finely colored plate on which are represented seven specimens of the Bahama Fruit Finch (*Spindalis zena*), covering all stages of plumage from nestling to adult." etc.

THE antedating of papers or works on natural history is an evil to which attention has often been called, and efforts have from time to time been made, on the part of both authors and editors, to guard against misdating. These efforts, however well intended, seem not always effectual, and even may make a bad matter worse. The dilatoriness of the Government Press in issuing reports and other works relating to science is notorious; such documents sometimes slumbering in the form of printed sheets for months and even years, before they are distributed to the public. Their authors are powerless, as are the would-be readers of these important scientific contributions, to secure their prompt publication; they frequently do not reach the public till a year or two later than the supposed date of publication borne on their title-pages. Cases of this sort are too numerous and too well-known to require specification: but it seems a pity that the Proceedings and other publications of the National Museum should have to be added to the category of antedated publications. Presumably to fix the exact date of publication, each signature of the 'Proceedings' is dated with what is supposed to be the date of its issuance from the Government Printing Office; and generally the date has accorded reasonably well with the date of their reception by libraries and the specialists to whom they are sent. This, however, has not been the case of late, three or four months sometimes having elapsed between the presumed dates of publication borne on the sheets and the actual date of their distribution. In the interest of both science and veracity, it would be well to omit the dates altogether, or take some means to have them give correctly the information implied.

WE are pleased to learn that Mr. Charles F. Morrison, now of Fort Lewis, Colorado, Vice-President of the Bristol County, Mass., Ornithological Club, is engaged in the preparation of a complete list of the birds of Colorado, which will form 'Publication No. 1' of the recently organized Colorado State Ornithological Association, of which Mr. Morrison is President *pro tem*. The members of the Association are coöperating in the work, and excellent circulars of instruction have been issued by Mr. Morrison, calling upon them for full and carefully annotated lists of the birds of their respective localities. Doubtless good results may be safely anticipated from this carefully planned system of coöperation.

MR. THOMAS McILWRAITH'S excellent little manual, entitled 'The Birds of Ontario,' comes to hand barely in time for this brief announcement. It forms an octavo volume of 320 pages, published by the Hamilton Association, of Hamilton, Ontario.